



# California Crop Weather

Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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**WEEK ENDING: May 3, 2015**

**RELEASED: May 4, 2015**

**FREQUENCY: Weekly**

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## WEATHER

The week began with slightly above average temperatures and dry conditions prevailing across the State. Throughout the week, temperatures continued to rise to 10 degrees above average for this time of the year. Across the valley and the desert, 90s and 100s became widespread. The major cities along the coast also felt the heat, especially Los Angeles and San Diego and as far north as San Jose. The building heat was in response to an upper level low and associated surface feature drawing hot, dry air from northern Mexico and the interior desert southwestern US into the State. Temperatures in the mountains were warm, with highs in the 70s and lows in the 40s and 50s by the end of the week. In fact, the effect was so pronounced that during mid-week a few fortunate coastal locations were even cooler than the mountains, due to various coastal processes. The warm temperatures and dry conditions wreaked havoc on the mountain snowpack, which shrank considerably. Agricultural areas of the State saw highs in the 90s by the weekend with lows in the 50s. The dry weather pattern prevailed, with the vast majority of the State receiving no precipitation. The only exceptions were a couple of places in the Sierras that saw widely scattered showers and thunderstorms on Thursday, and a few sporadic locations that received very light precipitation on Sunday.

## FIELD CROPS

**Oats** were cut, windrowed, dried, and baled. **Alfalfa** fields were mowed and baled. **Corn** and **cotton** fields were progressing nicely. In Fresno County, cotton planting was almost complete. Field crops were irrigated due to lack of rain. Cow manure was spread on harvested fields in preparation for replanting. **Potato** planting started. **Rice** fields were flooded for planting. **Wheat** was maturing quickly and cut for silage. Warmer weather was causing some early maturing fields. **Sunflowers** for seed were progressing. The wheat crop was rated as 90 percent good to excellent. Pasture and rangeland condition was 50 percent poor to fair.

## FRUIT CROPS

The harvest of early variety **cherries** and **peaches** began. **Apricot**, **nectarine**, peach and **plum** fruit continued developing in size. **Prune** trees continued to set fruit. The packing of peaches and nectarines continued. Fungicidal sprays were applied following the last rain. Stone fruit orchards were thinned. **Grapes** were blooming, with scattered reports of mildew. Grapevines continued to have leaves thinned to improve air flow and sunlight. Mechanical and chemical weed control continued in fruit tree orchards and vineyards. Orchards and vineyards continued to be irrigated, mostly utilizing drip-irrigation. **Blueberries** were harvested and exported. Hedge-rowing and topping of citrus groves continued. The harvest and packing of **navel oranges** neared completion. Navel, **Valencia** oranges and **Star Ruby grapefruit** were packed and exported to foreign and domestic markets. Netting was removed in seedless **Mandarin** groves now that the bloom is over. **Olive** bloom was ending and groves continued to be pruned and irrigated.

## NUT CROPS

**Walnut** catkins were falling and blight sprays were applied. Fertilizing and weed control of **almond** and walnut orchard floors continued. In Fresno County, almonds and **pistachios** received foliar nutrient sprays and walnuts orchards were irrigated.

## VEGETABLE CROPS

Summer vegetable fields were prepared for the coming harvest season. Pesticides and herbicides were applied and weeding crews worked in organic fields. Processing **tomatoes** and seed cucurbits were planted. Tomatoes were staked and tied. **Strawberries** were picked and sold at roadside stands. Strawberry harvest has picked up due to early season and warmer weather. **Broccoli**, **cauliflower**, **spinach**, head and leaf **lettuce** harvests were continuing strong. **Artichoke** harvest had started. In Fresno County, processing **tomatoes** may finish planting this week. **Onions** were treated for downy mildew and fertilized. Early garlic was off water this week and late garlic was irrigated and fertilized. Organic **kale** bloomed. **Watercress** was done blooming and setting seed. In Stanislaus County, transplant tomatoes, seeded dry **beans**, and **broccoli** were planted. In Imperial County, **cantaloupe**, **sweet corn**, **sugar beets**, and **carrots** were harvested.

## LIVESTOCK

In the northern part of the State, cattlemen were moving herds to other areas, such as Oregon to obtain feed, a normal occurrence. In the central part of the State, dairies were getting corrals cleaned up while range cattle pasture was beginning to dry up.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER – WEEK ENDING 5/3/2015

| STATIONS           | TEMPERATURE                           |                             |      |     | GROWING DEGREE<br>DAYS AT 60°F BASE |                         | RAIN DAYS            | PRECIPITATION                   |                      |                      |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
|                    | Average<br>Week<br>Ending<br>5/3/2015 | Departure<br>from<br>Normal | High | Low | This Year                           | Normal Year             | This<br>Season       | This<br>Week                    | This<br>Season       | Normal<br>Season     | Normal<br>Year      |
|                    |                                       |                             |      |     | January 1 -<br>5/3/2015             | January 1 -<br>5/3/2015 | July 1 -<br>5/3/2015 | Week<br>Ending<br>5/3/2015      | July 1 -<br>5/3/2015 | July 1 -<br>5/3/2015 | July 1 -<br>June 30 |
|                    |                                       |                             |      |     |                                     |                         |                      |                                 |                      |                      |                     |
|                    | - - Degrees Fahrenheit - -            |                             |      |     | - - Number - -                      |                         | - - Days /1 - -      | - - Inches of Precipitation - - |                      |                      |                     |
| North Coast        |                                       |                             |      |     |                                     |                         |                      |                                 |                      |                      |                     |
| Eureka WFO         | 52                                    | +1                          | 62   | 41  | 6                                   | 0                       | 78                   | 0.00                            | 31.44                | 36.04                | 38.10               |
| Ukiah              | 65                                    | +7                          | 91   | 46  | 119                                 | 19                      | 53                   | 0.00                            | 25.93                | 37.57                | 38.90               |
| Santa Rosa AP      | 64                                    | +5                          | 91   | 43  | 60                                  | 50                      | 44                   | 0.00                            | 23.78                | 30.08                | 31.01               |
| Napa State Hosp    | 66                                    | +7                          | 97   | 44  | 131                                 | 48                      | 47                   | 0.00                            | 20.87                | 25.61                | 26.46               |
| Central Coast      |                                       |                             |      |     |                                     |                         |                      |                                 |                      |                      |                     |
| San Francisco A    | 63                                    | +6                          | 88   | 51  | 100                                 | 15                      | 35                   | 0.00                            | 15.10                | 19.68                | 20.11               |
| San Jose AP        | 65                                    | +4                          | 88   | 50  | 143                                 | 100                     | 36                   | 0.00                            | 11.07                | 14.60                | 15.08               |
| Salinas AP         | 62                                    | +5                          | 92   | 47  | 189                                 | 19                      | 34                   | 0.00                            | 9.41                 | 12.62                | 12.91               |
| Monterey AP        | 59                                    | +3                          | 85   | 43  | 70                                  | 0                       | 44                   | 0.00                            | 14.52                | 19.73                | 20.35               |
| King City Ag       | 66                                    | +6                          | 98   | 43  | 147                                 | 68                      | 31                   | 0.00                            | 7.60                 | 12.02                | 12.30               |
| Paso Robles AP     | 67                                    | +7                          | 94   | 40  | 159                                 | 32                      | 25                   | 0.00                            | 8.13                 | 12.86                | 13.08               |
| Sacramento Valley  |                                       |                             |      |     |                                     |                         |                      |                                 |                      |                      |                     |
| Redding            | 75                                    | +14                         | 95   | 55  | 314                                 | 66                      | 60                   | 0.00                            | 25.59                | 31.35                | 33.52               |
| Red Bluff          | 73                                    | +11                         | 93   | 53  | 278                                 | 104                     | 59                   | 0.00                            | 23.57                | 22.63                | 24.07               |
| Willow s 6W        | 72                                    | +11                         | 92   | 51  | 238                                 | 76                      | 44                   | 0.00                            | 20.10                | 18.01                | 19.03               |
| Oroville AP        | 72                                    | +11                         | 92   | 55  | 260                                 | 87                      | 46                   | 0.00                            | 18.12                | 27.57                | 28.75               |
| Marysville         | 70                                    | +6                          | 91   | 50  | 204                                 | 158                     | 42                   | 0.00                            | 15.24                | 21.15                | 22.07               |
| Sacramento AP      | 70                                    | +9                          | 92   | 52  | 227                                 | 94                      | 35                   | 0.00                            | 14.06                | 17.26                | 17.93               |
| San Joaquin Valley |                                       |                             |      |     |                                     |                         |                      |                                 |                      |                      |                     |
| Stockton           | 70                                    | +8                          | 94   | 50  | 251                                 | 120                     | 36                   | 0.00                            | 9.81                 | 13.31                | 13.84               |
| Modesto AP         | 73                                    | +10                         | 95   | 53  | 322                                 | 177                     | 31                   | 0.00                            | 8.00                 | 12.50                | 13.12               |
| Merced Macready    | 71                                    | +8                          | 93   | 49  | 212                                 | 120                     | 31                   | 0.00                            | 6.44                 | 12.02                | 12.50               |
| Madera AP          | 72                                    | +9                          | 94   | 50  | 283                                 | 136                     | 25                   | 0.00                            | 5.57                 | 11.46                | 11.94               |
| Fresno AP          | 74                                    | +10                         | 93   | 54  | 378                                 | 151                     | 21                   | 0.00                            | 5.83                 | 10.67                | 11.23               |
| Lemoore NAS        | 73                                    | +10                         | 96   | 48  | 298                                 | 141                     | 22                   | 0.00                            | 4.41                 | 7.54                 | 7.89                |
| Visalia AP         | 72                                    | +9                          | 93   | 54  | 334                                 | 150                     | 17                   | 0.00                            | 6.37                 | 10.58                | 11.03               |
| Bakersfield AP     | 77                                    | +11                         | 96   | 56  | 459                                 | 206                     | 17                   | 0.00                            | 4.66                 | 6.16                 | 6.49                |
| Cascade Sierra     |                                       |                             |      |     |                                     |                         |                      |                                 |                      |                      |                     |
| Alturas AP         | 55                                    | +9                          | 81   | 26  | 0                                   | 0                       | 70                   | 0.00                            | 7.47                 | 10.14                | 12.13               |
| Mount Shasta AP    | 59                                    | +10                         | 84   | 36  | 1                                   | 0                       | 74                   | 0.00                            | 35.61                | 36.51                | 39.16               |
| Blue Canyon        | 61                                    | +13                         | 72   | 49  | 19                                  | 0                       | 61                   | 0.00                            | 32.70                | 62.91                | 66.36               |
| Yosemite Valley    | 65                                    | +12                         | 88   | 41  | 68                                  | 0                       | 39                   | 0.00                            | 12.53                | 35.54                | 37.73               |
| South Coast        |                                       |                             |      |     |                                     |                         |                      |                                 |                      |                      |                     |
| Santa Maria AP     | 62                                    | +6                          | 83   | 48  | 195                                 | 3                       | 23                   | 0.00                            | 4.31                 | 13.68                | 14.01               |
| Santa Barbara A    | 62                                    | +3                          | 81   | 47  | 185                                 | 102                     | 21                   | 0.00                            | 6.85                 | 16.65                | 16.93               |
| Oxnard NWS         | 64                                    | +5                          | 87   | 50  | 355                                 | 106                     | 25                   | 0.00                            | 6.57                 | 15.39                | 15.62               |
| Riverside AP       | 75                                    | +11                         | 96   | 54  | 620                                 | 235                     | 28                   | 0.00                            | 4.63                 | 9.95                 | 10.22               |
| Los Angeles AP     | 65                                    | +4                          | 80   | 55  | 385                                 | 234                     | 25                   | 0.00                            | 5.53                 | 12.86                | 13.15               |
| San Diego AP       | 69                                    | +7                          | 81   | 58  | 592                                 | 308                     | 24                   | 0.00                            | 5.56                 | 10.51                | 10.77               |
| Southeast Interior |                                       |                             |      |     |                                     |                         |                      |                                 |                      |                      |                     |
| Bishop AP          | 65                                    | +8                          | 87   | 37  | 74                                  | 24                      | 8                    | 0.00                            | 0.78                 | 4.55                 | 5.02                |
| Daggett AP         | 76                                    | +9                          | 95   | 52  | 538                                 | 291                     | 13                   | 0.00                            | 1.96                 | 4.01                 | 4.17                |
| Lancaster ATC      | 68                                    | +7                          | 90   | 39  | 154                                 | 95                      | 17                   | 0.00                            | 4.36                 | 7.23                 | 7.40                |
| Thermal            | 81                                    | +6                          | 103  | 54  | 898                                 | 683                     | 17                   | 0.00                            | 1.22                 | 3.45                 | 3.53                |
| Blythe AP          | 81                                    | +7                          | 101  | 62  | 993                                 | 634                     | 21                   | 0.00                            | 2.69                 | 4.01                 | 4.02                |
| Imperial CA        | 80                                    | +7                          | 102  | 53  | 960                                 | 630                     | 17                   | 0.00                            | 2.70                 | 2.92                 | 2.96                |

1/ Total number of days with precipitation events this season.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow /ice) is in inches.

Air Temperatures are in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Normal periods 1970-2000 used in Departure From Normal calculations.

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